

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/031,596

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

Applicant(s)

ZOPPAS, MATTEO

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on ____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 032004.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 23 Jan 2002
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____

Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the Examiner:
Figure 6A must be relabeled as Figure 6 to match the specification as done in the international application. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record teach or suggest an apparatus for blow molding hollow plastic containers comprising: a plurality of pairs of openable and closable half-molds capable of being coupled to each other and clamped together, said pairs being associated to an appropriate central structure, devices to handle, transfer and introduce preforms in said corresponding half-molds as these are kept in their open position, a pick-up device adapted to remove the blow-molded container from the pair of half-molds upon them being opened, a mold opening and closing mechanism adapted to close said half-molds together upon them having passed through the position in which the preform insertion is carried out, and to open the half-molds from each other in correspondence of the mechanism provided to remove the finished container therefrom, means adapted to arrange a respective preform in a predefined position suitable for blow molding, and to hold it in this position regardless of the position and mutual relation of the respective pair of half-molds, characterized in that said means comprise: a fork member joined to a respective stationary half-mold and provided with a receptacle adapted to place the respective preform into the respective pre-defined position, a pincer gripper adapted to

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transfer the preform from an external position and automatically fit it into the receptacle of the respective fork member, as well as to automatically disengage from the preform upon latter having been firmly fitted into the respective receptacle, and a small tube assembly adapted to move into inserting in the mouth portion of the preform when the latter is so restrained in said respective receptacle. The closest prior art (Zoppas WO 99/62692) discloses a preform moving on an arc path (b) and a curved guide element (15) to assist the preform in its movement of insertion in the respective cavity of the fixed mold. The reference fails to disclose the combination of a fork member joined to a fixed mold-half, a pincer gripper for inserting the preform in contact with the fork and then a small tube assembly to move into the preform when it is restrained while the mold cavity is open. Lecluyse et al (3,611,484) disclose a similar rotary blow molding device having one fixed and one movable mold half for each set of mold halves along the circumference of a rotary support, but the reference teaches a chain that moves with the preform through the various stations including the molding station. Reilly et al (3,977,822) disclose a preform feeding chute (96) and a plate (94) which position a preform such that a stretch rod (92) can be moved into the preform while the mold is open, but the reference fails to disclose the fork and the pincer gripper as claimed.

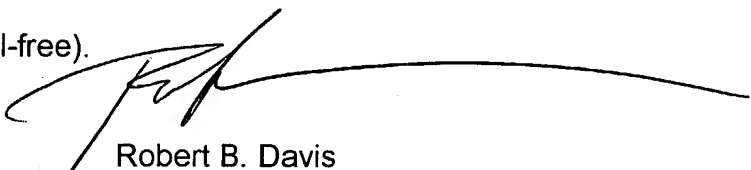
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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3/20/04